

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 L-02 H-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OC-05 CCO-00 SSO-00 /048 W
----- 117591

P R 261300Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8588

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4123

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: CASC, CGEN (LINDSAY, LEN)(MUKHAMETSHIN, BORIS)

REF: A. MOSCOW 2078 B. MOSCOW 18222

1. IN REPLY TO EMBASSY'S FEBRUARY 14 NON-PAPER (REF A), MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION FIRST SECRETARY G.A. BOSIKOV MARCH 26 DENIED THAT HANDLING OF LINDSAY BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES AT VYBORG AS HE SOUGHT TO LEAVE USSR NOVEMBER 24 CONSTITUTED VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 12 PARAGRAPH 1 OF US-USSR CONSULAR CONVENTION. BOSIKOV SAID LINDSAY HAD ANTI-SOVIET PLACARDS WHICH WERE CONFISCATED BY SOVIET CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT VYBORG IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOVIET LAW. PROHIBITION OF EXPORT OF SUCH PLACARDS IS PERFECTLY REASONABLE, BOSIKOV AFFIRMED, BECAUSE SUCH MATERIAL CAN BE DETRIMENTAL TO "OUR GOOD RELATIONS." BOSIKOV ASSERTED THAT LINDSAY WAS TAKEN OFF TRAIN AS PART OF CUSTOMS INSPECTION AFTER PLACARDS WERE FOUND, BUT WAS NOT ARRESTED OR DETAINED; HE WAS PUT ON NEXT TRAIN TO HELSINKI, AND THEREFORE DID NOT NEED CONSULAR ASSISTANCE OR PROTECTION. BOSIKOV EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT EMBASSY WOULD TAKE SIDE OF LINDSAY, WHOSE BEHAVIOR WAS IMPROPER FOR TOURIST AND KIND WHICH "CAN INTERFERE WITH OUR GOOD RELATIONS."

2. CONSOFF OBSERVED THAT LINDSAY'S VERSION OF TIME HE SPENT AT VYBORG DID NOT COINCIDE WITH DESCRIPTION BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES. CONSOFF ASKED IF ANYTHING WAS CONFISCATED OTHER THAN PLACARDS,
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AND BOSIKOV ASSERTED THAT ONLY PLACARDS WERE TAKEN.

3. BOSIKOV THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT, WITH REGARD TO MUKHAMETSHIN (REF B), EMBASSY HAS NO LEGITIMATE INTEREST OR RIGHT TO INQUIRE UNDER CONSULAR CONVENTION BECAUSE MUKHAMSTSHIN IS SOVIET CITIZEN. HE SAID MFA THEREFORE WILL NOT PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT MUKHAMETSHIN'S CASE. ALLUDING TO REPORTS THAT MUKHAMETSHIN MIGHT BE MARRIED TO AMERICAN, BOSIKOV AFFIRMED THAT AUTHORITIES HAD CHECKED AND NO SUCH MARRIAGE IS REGISTERED. CONSOFF SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MUKHAMETSHIN IS NOT MARRIED BUT IS ENGAGED TO U.S. CITIZEN. BOSIKOV COMMENTED THAT PERHAPS MUKHAMETSHIN IS MERELY ACQUAINTED WITH AN AMERICAN GIRL. CONSOFF SAID EMBASSY RECOGNIZED THAT MFA IS NOT REQUIRED BY CONSULAR CONVENTION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT MUKHAMETSHIN, BUT EMBASSY RECEIVES INQUIRES ABOUT CASE AND HAD REQUESTED INFORMATION TO BE ABLE TO REPLY. BOSIKOV DECLINED TO DISCUSS CASE.

4. FYI: AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW HEARD RUMOR THAT MUKHAMETSHIN HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON IN EARLY MARCH. HOWEVER, CONSOFF PHONED MUKHAMETSHIN APARTMENT MARCH 12 AND WAS TOLD BY UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN THAT MUKHAMETSHIN STILL IN PRISON AND THAT SHE HAD NO INFO RE POSSIBLE RELEASE.
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